

REMARKS

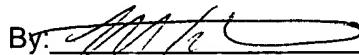
Claims 1-24 stand pending in the instant application, with claim 1 rejected, claims 2-10 objected-to, and claims 11-24 allowed. First, while Applicant disagrees with the examiner's positions regarding the patentability of claim 1, as set forth in the Final Office Action, Applicant is nonetheless grateful for the examiner's thoughtful examination, and clearly stated concerns.

To that end, Applicant incorporates objected-to claim 2 into rejected claim 1, thereby placing claim 1 in condition for immediate allowance. Complementing the amendment of claim 1, Applicant cancels claim 2, and amends claims 3, 4, and 5, to account for changed dependencies.

With the above amendments, the pending claims are 1 and 3-24, and it is believed that the instant application stands in condition for immediate allowance. Should the examiner have any further concerns, please call the undersigned attorney for quick resolution. Otherwise, Applicant looks forward to receiving a notice of allowance for the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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